

## **GUATEMALA 'OFFICIAL' PERFORATIONS & OVERPRINTS**

**MIKE HEMPSALL** has sent this article which he found in Gibbons Stamp Monthly July 1936

The perforating/overprinting with 'Oficial' was done in 1912/27 and used exclusively for official correspondence of the Government ("el Supremo Gobierno de la Republica") and the perforating/overprinting was only done at the General Post Office. The first perforation was done in 1912/17 by means of suitable machines which perforated blocks of 4 at a time. The stamps so treated were SG 116-125, 133 and small quantities of 141-151 and 155.

At the end of 1917, due to earthquakes, the perforator was damaged and a rubber stamp was made to take its place with which the word 'oficial' was handstamped indiscriminately in violet, blue or black. Stamps seen -

SG 119, 202, 120, 195, 196, 203, 197, 204, 1160, 123, 161, 124, 198, 200, 205, 211, 201, 206, 169, 125, 207, 208, 162, 209, 199 and 210 (Numbers given in order of the official statement which is in order of value). In 1924, the perforator was repaired and stamps from it may be distinguished by the letter 'c' which has 2 more perforation holes that was the case previously. The upper left hand stamp of each block of 4 shows the 'c' lacking one hole at the top owing to the breaking of the pin. The perforating machine was destroyed when the triangular official stamps were brought into use in 1927.(?1929)

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